

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 AECE-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00

H-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01

PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 BIB-01 /088 W

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P R 151626Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7261

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T BONN 00680

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: AIR MANPOWER

REFS: (A) STATE 8358, (B) USNATO 6794

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A, EMBOFF MADE PRESENTATION ON JANUARY 15 OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL ON THE AIR MANPOWER ISSUE TO FONOFF MBFR OFFICE DIRECTOR RUTH AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR GESCHER. EMBOFF DREW ON POINTS IN REF A, EMPHASIZING PARA 8 IN PARTICULAR.
2. RUTH WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME. HE SAID IT WOULD BE STUDIED CAREFULLY, AND THAT HE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH EMBOFF IF ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION OR INFORMATION WERE REQUIRED.

3. RUTH SAID HE WAS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE POINT

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REGARDING THE NEED TO AVOID CODIFYING A DISPARITY IN

AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCES. GESCHER FOLLOWED UP BY ASKING WHETHER THE U.S. HAD NOW GIVEN UP PURSUING THE QUESTION OF RECATEGORIZATION OF FORCES. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT THIS APPEARED TO BE IMPLICIT IN THE U.S. PROPOSAL.

4. RUTH COMMENTED THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL SEEMED TO REFLECT APPROACH 1 IN THE MBFR WG PAPER (REF B) WHICH SPECIFIES NO SERVICE MANPOWER SUBCEILING. HE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT THIS APPROACH TAKES THE FOCUS OFF GROUND FORCES. HE REITERATED THAT THE FRG FAVORS APPROACH 3 WHICH SPECIFIES A SUBCEILING ON GROUND MANPOWER.

5. BOTH RUTH AND GESCHER AGREED THAT IT MADE GOOD NEGOTIATING SENSE TO ADVANCE A "PACKAGE" PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, GESCHER SUGGESTED THE PACKAGE WAS NOT REALLY COMPLETE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE U.S. HAD TAKEN A DECISION REGARDING THE NUCLEAR OPTION. EMBOFF STATED THAT THE QUESTION WAS STILL UNDER STUDY IN WASHINGTON.

6. IN VIEW OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL, RUTH EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT SUBSTANTIAL TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THE ALLIES TO REACH AN AGREED POSITION. HOWEVER, HE FELT THERE WAS ENOUGH ON THE TABLE TO DISCUSS IN VIENNA DURING THE UPCOMING RELATIVELY SHORT FIFTH ROUND.

7. COMMENT: THE GERMANS WILL PROBABLY HAVE DIFFICULTY ACCEPTING THE ARGUMENT THAT U.S. AND SOVIET AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN PHASE I WOULD NOT SET A PRECEDENT FOR THE OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO TAKE COMPARABLE REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II. THE U.S. PRINCIPLE OF VOLUNTARY INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN REDUCTIONS MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO ALLAY FRG CONCERNS ON THIS SCORE. THE OTHER THEME WHICH WE HEAR REPEATEDLY IN BONN IS THE NEED FOR THE U.S. TO REACH SOME DECISION ON OPTION III. THE GERMANS APPEAR TO BE SKEPTICAL THAT THE ALLIES CAN ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS UNLESS AND UNTIL THE WESTERN SIDE ADVANCES A TRULY COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL WHICH INCLUDES A NUCLEAR COMPONENT. ACCORDINGLY,  
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IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE THEM TO AGREE TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL ON AIR MANPOWER WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NUCLEAR OPTION. END COMMENT  
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